

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ZURICH 00562 210826Z

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SUBJ: FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF REIGN CELEBRATIONS

FOR PRINCE OF LIECHTENSTEIN

1. SUMMARY: PRINCIPAL OFFICER AND WIFE
ATTENDED FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF REIGN
CELEBRATIONS FOR PRINCE FRANZ JOSEF II OF
LIECHTENSTEIN IN VADUZ AUGUST 13-14.
RANKING FOREIGN GUESTS WERE AUSTRIAN
PRESIDENT DR. RUDOLPH KIRCHSCHLAEGER AND
SWISS FEDERAL COUNCILOR DR. KURT FURGLER.
IN A SPEECH FORMALLY MARKING THE PRINCE'S
MILESTONE, LIECHTENSTEIN CHIEF OF GOVERNMENT
HANS BRUNHART STRESSED PRINCIPALITY'S
ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP WITH SWITZERLAND AND
HISTORIC TIES WITH AUSTRIA.
END SUMMARY.

2. PRINCE'S JUBILEE WAS WELL-ORGANIZED AND
QUITE LAVISH AFFAIR WITH 300-600 PERSONS
ATTENDING THE PRINCIPAL EVENTS. THE HIGHEST
RANKING GUESTS WERE AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT
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PAGE 02 ZURICH 00562 210826Z

KIRCHSCHLAEGER AND SWISS FEDERAL COUNCILOR
FURGLER. LIECHTENSTEIN GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN
TOLD PRESS THAT NO OTHER HEADS OF STATE OR
ROYALTY HAD BEEN INVITED BECAUSE OF THE
PRINCIPALITY'S MEAGER SECURITY FORCES. OTHER
GUESTS INCLUDED RANKING SWISS CANTNAL AND
FEDERAL OFFICIALS, PRESIDENT OF AUSTRIAN

BUNDESLAND VORARLBERG, THE CONSULAR CORPS, PROMINENT LIECHTENSTEINERS, AND BUSINESS AND CULTURAL LEADERS WITH LINKS TO PRINCIPALITY. MAJOR EVENTS WERE "FESTAKT" CEREMONY OFFICIALLY MARKING THE JUBILEE, A RECEPTION HOSTED BY PRINCE AND PRINCESS AT VADUZ CASTLE, A SOLEMN HIGH MASS CELEBRATED BY BISHOP OF CHUR WITH MUSICIANS FROM WIENER SYMPHONIKER AND OFFICIAL BANQUET. THERE WERE ALSO EVENTS FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC INCLUDING A CONCERT, TORCHLIGHT PARADE AND FIREWORKS.

3. BESIDES EULOGIZING PRINCE IN HIS FESTAKT ADDRESS, LIECHTENSTEIN CHIEF OF GOVERNMENT HANS BRUNHART TOUCHED ON THE PRINCIPALITY'S FOREIGN RELATIONS AND HIS COALITION GOVERNMENT'S DOMESTIC PRIORITIES. ON THE FIRST SUBJECT BRUNHART MADE VERY CLEAR THAT BASIS OF LIECHTENSTEIN'S FOREIGN POLICY WAS ITS TREATY-BASED PARTNERSHIP WITH SWITZERLAND. HE ALSO REFERRED TO THE PRINCIPALITY'S RICH AND HISTORIC TIES WITH AUSTRIA. BRUNHART MADE NO MENTION OF CURRENT SERIES OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH SWISS LOOKING TOWARD AN AGREEMENT CONCERNING IMPLEMENTATION OF SWISS MONETARY POLICY IN LIECHTENSTEIN. BRUNHART REFERRED TO THE PRINCIPALITY'S HOPE TO

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PAGE 03 ZURICH 00562 210826Z

ACHIEVE FULL MEMBERSHIP IN COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND OPINED THAT A SMALL STATE SUCH AS LIECHTENSTEIN WOULD BE ABLE TO OFFER USEFUL INSIGHTS ON SUBJECT OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION.

4. CONCERNING DOMESTIC POLICY, THE CHIEF OF GOVERNMENT LISTED TAX REFORM, REVISION OF THE PRINCIPALITY'S COMPANY LAW AND IMPROVEMENT OF EDUCATION AS HIS GOVERNMENT'S TOP PRIORITIES. INTEREST IN REFORMING COMPANY LAW IS, OF COURSE, RELATED TO THE DAMAGE TO PRINCIPALITY'S REPUTATION WHICH RESULTED FROM THE DISCLOSURE OF IMPROPER ACTIVITIES BY LIECHTENSTEIN "LETTERDROP" COMPANIES SUCH AS TEXON'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE CREDIT SUISSE SCANDAL.

5. IN A SECOND SPEECH AT THE FESTAKT, FORMER CHIEF OF GOVERNMENT AND CURRENT VICE PRESIDENT OF THE LIECHTENSTEIN LANDTAG DR. GERARD BATLINER MENTIONED SOMEWHAT EMBARRASSING PROBLEM OF LAC OF

THE RIGHT TO VOTE FOR THE PRINCIPALITY'S
WOMEN. THE GOVERNMENT FAVORS WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE
BUT THIS VIEW HAS NOT BEEN SHARED BY THE
PRINCIPALITY'S MALE VOTERS.

6. ENTIRE OFFICIAL PROGRAM WAS CARRIED OUT SMOOTHLY
AND A TRULY FESTIVE ATMOSPHERE REIGNED IN
STREETS, SHOPS, AND HOTELS OF VADUZ. MOST
LIECHTENSTEINERS SEEM TO BELIEVE THAT THEIR
CONTINUED INDEPENDENCE AND ALMOST UNEQUALLED
CURRENT STANDARD OF LIVING ARE DUE IN LARGE
PART TO THE CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF THE HOUSE
OF LIECHTENSTEIN AND WISE
POLICIES OF ITS REIGNING PRINCE.
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PAGE 04 ZURICH 00562 210826Z

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